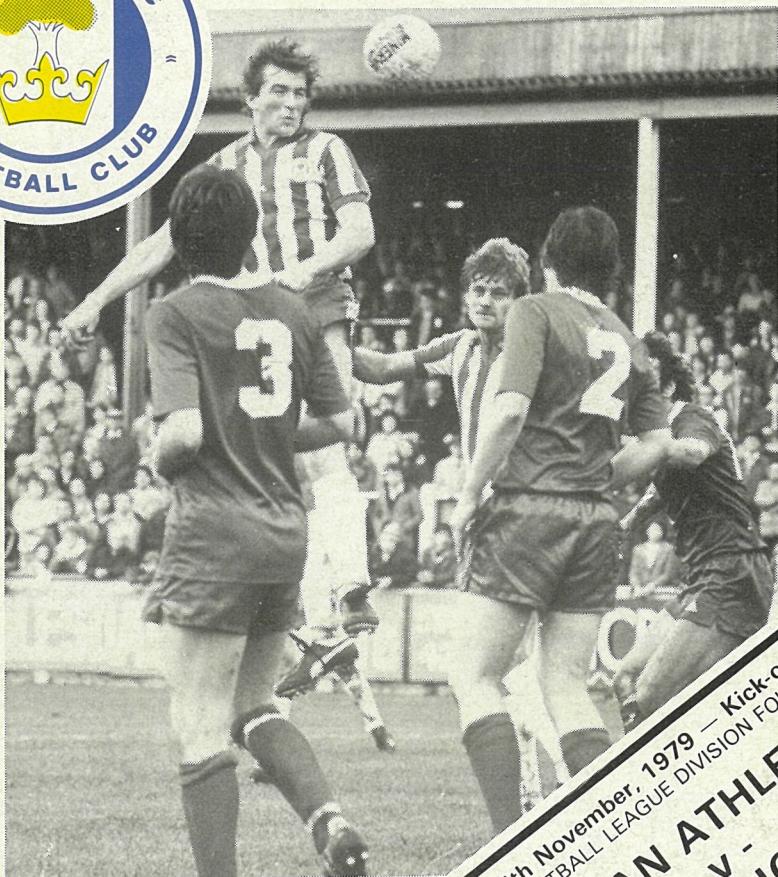


WIGAN ATHLETIC



Saturday, 17th November, 1979 — Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR
WIGAN ATHLETIC - v -
SCUNTHORPE UNITED

Official Programme

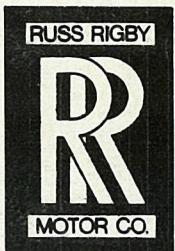
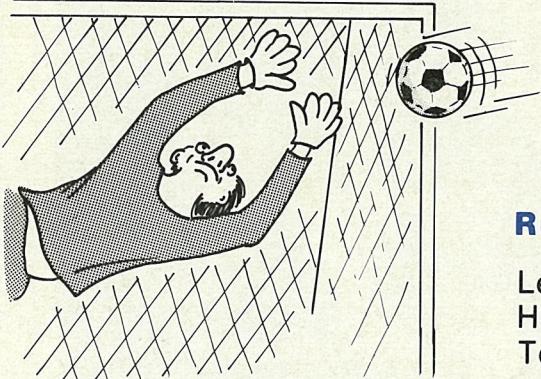
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Club Directory

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REGISTERED OFFICE:
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CHAIRMAN:
Mr. A.O. Horrocks.

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A. Eckersley, G.D. Gorner,
B. Connolly.

COMPANY SECRETARY:
Mr. D. Welsby.

TEAM MANAGER:
Mr. I.M. McNeill.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER:
Mr. J.T. Sudworth.

HON. MEDICAL OFFICERS:
Dr. G. Menon
Dr. S.K. Ahuja

Match Ball Donors

The Wigan Athletic Football Club wishes to thank all those who have donated match balls. Any individual or organisation wishing to join the scheme is asked to contact the Commercial Manager, Springfield Park, Wigan. (Telephone: Wigan 43067)

Our front page picture shows Joe Hinnigan rising high above the Darlington defence to get in his header. Photo by courtesy of the Wigan Observer.

Personally Speaking

by Ian McNeill



Good afternoon all.
TODAY I would like to give a warm welcome to Ron Ashman and his Scunthorpe team. At present they are in the bottom half of the league but I recently saw them defeat Tranmere at Prenton Park and no doubt we will have

have to work very hard to get both points today.

Disappointment

Since our win at Rochdale we have been very disappointed to have had two games postponed. Just when we felt we were coming good and confidence had grown we were dealt the blow of having both the Tranmere and Hartlepool games put off because of ground conditions.

Blackpool game

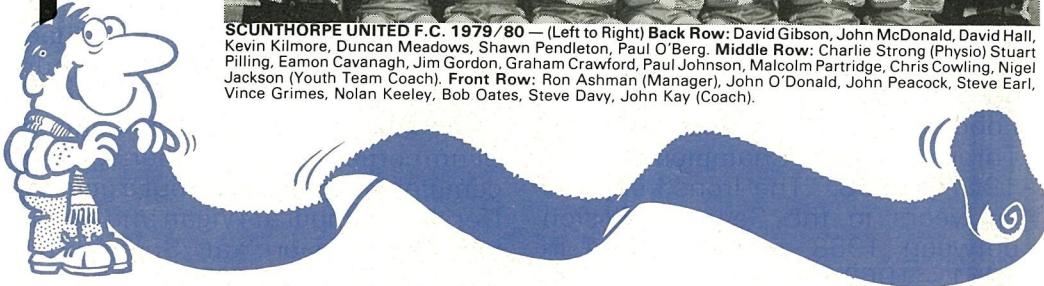
We are all looking forward to our trip to the seaside and I am sure we will have a tremendous following. If there is one thing which really brings the best out in our supporters it is a good F.A. Cup run. I can really visualise the blue and white favours of Latics overwhelming the Tangerine of the Seasiders and with your tremendous vocal backing I firmly believe we can at least force the Third Division club back to Springfield Park.

Enjoy today's match.
I.M. McNeill.

WELCOME TO



SCUNTHORPE UNITED F.C. 1979/80 — (Left to Right) **Back Row:** David Gibson, John McDonald, David Hall, Kevin Kilmore, Duncan Meadows, Shawn Pendleton, Paul O'Berg. **Middle Row:** Charlie Strong (Physio) Stuart Pilling, Eamon Cavanagh, Jim Gordon, Graham Crawford, Paul Johnson, Malcolm Partridge, Chris Cowling, Nigel Jackson (Youth Team Coach). **Front Row:** Ron Ashman (Manager), John O'Donald, John Peacock, Steve Earl, Vince Grimes, Nolan Keeley, Bob Oates, Steve Davy, John Kay (Coach).



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SCUNTHORPE UNITED

IT IS almost thirty years since the Scunthorpe United Football Club joined the Football League in 1950, and during that time span the South Humberside club have experienced the ups and downs of football fortune.

After a steady beginning to their Football League life and a Division Three (North) Championship in 1957 - 1958, "The Irons" enjoyed six years in the Second Division between 1958 and 1964 and in 1961 - 1962 the Scunthorpe team finished in fourth place, going so near to obtaining a place among the league "giants". The late sixties saw the club lose its impetus and slide back into the Fourth Division. Apart from 1972 - 1973, when the club had one year at Third Division level, the Old Show Ground has witnessed a long period of Fourth Division soccer. In spite of much hard work by directors and management, only momentarily have Scunthorpe United been able to recapture the glory days epitomised by the legendary Jack Brownsword (600 league appearances), Barrie Thomas (holder of the club's goal scoring record) and the more recent talents of Ray Clemence and Kevin Keegan. F.A. Cup Fifth Round appearances in 1957 - 1958 and 1969 - 1970 brought fleeting moments of publicity and glamour, but progress beyond the Third Round of the

Football League Cup has evaded the club. Three particularly interesting features about the club are that it boasts a lady secretary, Mrs. S. Louth, a club song "Scunthorpe United" available on record, and had as a previous manager one of our own former bosses — Ron Suart.

In last year's games against Scunthorpe United, we managed to complete the "double", but a goal by Derek Brownbill at Wigan and a goal by Tommy Gore at Scunthorpe marked the narrow margin between success and failure. Scunthorpe United are known for their fighting spirit and skilful endeavour and today's game promises to be a dour affair as Ron Ashman's players battle to recover from a disappointing start to the season and as our own boys attempt to continue their climb up the table.

It gives us great pleasure, therefore, to welcome the Directors, Management, players and supporters of Scunthorpe United Football Club. We hope that, after recent inclement weather, the sun will shine on a game which promises to provide a good afternoon's entertainment for all present at Springfield Park. Whatever the result, we wish our visitors from Scunthorpe a safe journey home tonight, and a quick return to the glory days of former years.

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

F.A. Cup — 1st Round

Blackpool v Wigan Athletic — 24th November, 1979.

WE HAVE received an allocation of Stand Tickets for this game priced £1.70 and £1.60. These will be on sale to Season Ticket holders and Shareholders on production of their season tickets and Share Scripts on Monday and Tuesday next week, during office hours. The remaining tickets will be on general sale from 9.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

In the event of a draw the replay will take place at Springfield Park on Wednesday, 28th November, 1979, kick-off 7.30p.m. Admission to the stand will be by ticket only, price £2.00.

Tickets will be on sale to Season Ticket holders and Shareholders on Sunday, 25th November from 10.00 a.m. — 1.00 p.m. and on Monday, 26th November from 9.30 a.m. — 12.30 p.m. Season Tickets and Share Scripts must be produced.

Any remaining tickets will be on general Sale from 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 26th November, 1979, during normal office hours, on the basis of two tickets per person (subject to availability).

Match Ball Donation

WE ARE pleased to acknowledge the donation of today's match ball by COWLING STREET ENGINEERING OF HENHURST BRIDGE FOUNDRY, CHAPEL LANE, WIGAN (Telephone No. WIGAN 35726), specialists in sheet metal work and welding and suppliers of components to, among others, Ingersoll Rand. Cowling Street Engineering have a reputation for quality craft work and efficient production. We thank Mr. Tom Price, in particular, for the interest he has shown in our club and Mr. D. Purcell for his valued assistance.

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Lancashire League Scene

by Fred Eyre

WHEN he was called up for first team duty against Rochdale last week, Glen Buckley became the third player to be drafted into the squad from the reserves in recent weeks. Nigel Hart was the first, closely followed by Tony Quinn who has justified his inclusion with four goals in his first four games. It has not been an easy ride for Glen and the fact that football is full of strange twists and turns is illustrated in Glen's case.

Until recently he had always been regarded as a very promising footballer, with many assets, two good feet, pace, good in the air, reasonable control but still a player looking for an identity. When he played as a striker he worked tremendously hard and unselfishly, but unfortunately did not strike very often. When played as a wide front man Glen did quite well, but still something was lacking: when used in midfield, he again

played well but nothing special.

It seemed he had reached a full stop and was seriously considering accepting an offer to join a Northern Premier League Club and were seriously considering allowing him to accept it!!

In the back of my mind were a couple of occasions last season when in an emergency he had played for us in the back four and I had been impressed. So after a consultation with Mr. McNeill it was decided to give him one final opportunity to find his true position. (It had to be his last chance because he had run our of positions!!)

I gave Glen a run at left back and he settled in immediately and looked born to the position; all the natural assets that he had displayed spasmodically in his more forward positions dropped into place and he has not looked back since.

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Player Profile



Photograph by courtesy of The Wigan Reporter



GEORGE URQUHART (Midfield)

GEORGE URQUHART was born in Glasgow and received his Secondary Education at Westwood Secondary School, Easterhouse, Glasgow.

As a schoolboy, George showed his love for soccer and represented his school, as a midfield player, at different age levels. He also enjoyed playing basketball, but did not, to use his own words, "show much talent at the game".

While still a youngster, he joined an amateur side called Stephen's Juveniles, and, after some very promising games, he gained amateur international honours against England and Ireland. After playing for a while with Renfrew Juniors, George signed for St. Mirren in 1968, and eventually made his debut against Celtic's European Cup winning side. His recollections of that game are briefly summarised as "I spent my time chasing shadows and we were beaten 0 - 4". Still playing in midfield, George Urquhart stayed at Love Street (St. Mirren Park) for three seasons, but cartilage problems marred his final months with St. Mirren, and he left to join Guildford City in the Southern League. After one brief season, the unassuming Scotsman travelled back North to join Ian McNeill at Ross County. During that period the Highland

League club enjoyed its most successful spell and captured a succession of trophies. George stayed on at Ross County after Ian McNeill left to join Wigan Athletic for a second term as manager.

Although Ian McNeill tried to persuade Ross County to allow George Urquhart to join his Lancashire club for its first year in the Football League, it was not until last summer that manager and player teamed up again. A series of niggling injuries delayed George's entry into Wigan's first team, but a recent uninterrupted run of ten games has allowed him the opportunity to settle into his customary midfield role. Although expressing a certain amount of surprise at the permitted physical aspects of Fourth Division Soccer, particularly the tackle from behind, George Urquhart has brought a cool and thoughtful approach to the game in stark contrast to the hurly-burly nature of run-of-the-mill league confrontations.

Married with two girls and temporarily living in the Aspull area, George has recently acquired a piece of land at Standish, where, come the Spring, and improved weather, he hopes to commence building his own house. It is evident that George Urquhart and family are here to stay!!

RESERVE RESULTS FOR YOUR RECORDS LANCASHIRE LEAGUE DIVISION 1

Wednesday, 7th November, 1979

Wigan Athletic Res. 2 - Tranmere Res. 1
Wigan Scorers - R. MacIvor, Micky Moore

Monday, 12th November, 1979

Morecambe Res. 1 - Wigan Athletic Res. 0

Please note the Wigan Athletic Reserve Team game against Liverpool 'A' will be played at Springfield Park on Monday, 19th November, 1979, kick-off 7.30 p.m.

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ATTACK! ATT

Photo by courtesy of Evening Post & Chronicle



ABOVE:
Not this time, Tommy Gore!!

TOP RIGHT:
George Urquhart attempts to force his way through the Darlington defence.

BOTTOM RIGHT:
Big Neil Davids takes on the massed ranks of defenders.

Springfield Spotlight

ACK! ATTACK!



Photo by courtesy of Wigan Observer



Photo by courtesy of the Wigan Observer

es on the
Darlington

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Down Memory Lane

by Harold Ashurst

AS WIGAN ATHLETIC prepare for next week's attractive cup tie at Blackpool — a tie that has all the glamour and excitement of a local derby — it is interesting to look back, just three years, when Latics were again preparing for a crucial cup tie.

Athletic were having a poor season in the Premier League and nothing was going right for them so you can imagine the groans of disappointment when they were drawn to travel to Matlock Town in the first round of the 1976-77 competition.

Years ago, a tie at Matlock would have been just a stepping stone to better things but the Derbyshire club were then top of the Premier League and were a formidable outfit in non-league circles — as they still are.

In fact only twelve months earlier Wigan had thrashed Matlock 4 - 1 at Springfield Park to earn a glamour game with Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough.

On paper it did not appear that the match would cause any undue interest but, as always happens, Wiganers appear

from nowhere when the F.A. Cup is mentioned and there were well over 1,000 who travelled to Matlock to watch the game. The game itself went according to the form book with Matlock Town running out 2 - 0 winners, although it wasn't until later in the game that the vital second goal was scored.

This just goes to show how the fortunes of a football club can change. Cup fever is again gripping the town in preparation for next week's match — and you can bet your life that there will be many more than 1,000 Wiganers at Bloomfield Road next week but only three years ago things were a whole lot different.

The team that played at Matlock was: Critchley, Bannister, Hinnigan, Gore, Ward, Gillibrand, Braithwaite, Worswick, Wilkie, Prescott, Wright, Sub. Baines.

Six of those players are still on Athletic's books — Joe Hinnigan, Tommy Gore and Jeff Wright are, of course, first team players. Noel Ward is tragically out of action with a broken leg, John Wilkie is a regular in the Reserves and Ian Gillibrand, then club captain, is on the coaching staff.

LATICS AWAY

At Blackpool, Saturday, 24th November, 1979.

F.A. Cup 1st Round. Kick-off 3.00 p.m.

Leave M6 Motorway at junction 32 and follow signs Blackpool M55. At end of Motorway join A583. In 2m. at traffic signals turn left into Waterloo Road (S.P. South Shore). In 0.7m. turn right into Central Drive. Then take 3rd turning on left into Bloomfield Road for Blackpool F.C.

Facts and Figures

Home fixtures in capitals.
Wigan scores first.

Player scoring in bold.
† Player substituted.

² Figure indicates no. of goals scored by player.
^{*} In result column indicates opponents own goal.

DATE	Fixture	F	A	ATT.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Aug 11	Stockport FLC1	1 - 2	6.004	R Ward	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Brownbill	Purdie	Urquhart	
Aug 15	STOCKPORT FLC1	0 - 0	7.591	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Brownbill	Purdie	Moore	
Aug 18	Darlington	2 - 2	2.063	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan ¹	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie ¹	Davids	
Aug 22	HUDDERSFIELD	1 - 2	6.927	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore ¹	Purdie	Brownbill	
Aug 25	Stockport County	2 - 1	3.837	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore ¹	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	Moore	Purdie	N Ward	
Sep 1	PORTSMOUTH	1 - 2	8.198	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	N Ward	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore ¹	Purdie	Urquhart	
Sep 8	Bournemouth	2 - 1	4.390	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Hart	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Brownbill ¹	
Sep 15	YORK CITY	2 - 5	5.990	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan ¹	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart ¹	
Sep 19	HARTEPOOL	2 - 1	4.677	Shyne	Smart	Hinnigan	Gore	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton ¹	Purdie	
Sep 22	Hereford United	1 - 2	3.891	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Purdie	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright ¹	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Urquhart	
Sep 29	BRADFORD CITY	4 - 1	8.009	Shyne	Gore ¹	Hinnigan ¹	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore ¹	Houghton ¹	Crompton	
Oct 6	TORQUAY UNITED	0 - 3	6.541	Shyne	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Crompton	
Oct 9	Huddersfield Town	0 - 4	7.871	Brown	Gore	Hinnigan	Urquhart	Davids	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Methven	
Oct 13	Doncaster Rovers	1 - 3	4.169	Brown	Maciver ¹	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Fretwell	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton	Moore	Purdie	Urquhart	
Oct 20	LINCOLN CITY	2 - 1	5.454	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ²	Moore	Urquhart	A Quinn	
Oct 24	ROCHDALE	1 - 1	5.036	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Buckley	
Oct 27	Newport County	2 - 3	4.910	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan ¹	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Buckley	
Nov 3	DARLINGTON	4* - 1	5.001	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan ¹	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Brownbill	Moore	Houghton	Buckley	
Nov 6	Rochdale	2 - 0	2.936	Brown	Fretwell	Hinnigan	Gore	Methven	Davids	Corrigan	Wright	Houghton ¹	A Quinn ¹	Urquhart	Brownbill	
Nov 17	SCUNTHORPE															
Nov 24	Blackpool F.A.C.1															
Dec 1	NORTHAMPTON															
Dec 3	Tranmere Rovers															
Dec 8	Walsall															
Dec 15	F.A. Cup 2															
Dec 21	CREWE															
Dec 26	Peterborough															
Dec 29	STOCKPORT															
Jan 1	PORT VALE															
Jan 5	Halifax Town															
Jan 12	Portsmouth															
Jan 19	BOURNEMOUTH															
Jan 26	ALDERSHOT															
Feb 2	York City															
Feb 9	HEREFORD UNITED															
Feb 16	Bradford City															
Feb 23	DONCASTER															
Feb 29	Lincoln City															
Mar 8	NEWPORT COUNTY															
Mar 14	Torquay United															
Mar 22	TRANMERE															
Mar 29	Scunthorpe United															
Apr 4	Crewe Alexandra															
Apr 5	PETERBOROUGH															
Apr 7	Port Vale															
Apr 12	HALIFAX TOWN															
Apr 19	Northampton Town															
Apr 26	WALSALL															
May 3	Aldershot															

FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 4 — TABLE AS AT 14th NOVEMBER, 1979.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Home Goals		Away Goals									
						W	D	L	F	A	Pts.	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
19	7	1	1	29	7	6	2	2	18	12	29						
19	8	0	1	29	10	5	1	4	17	16	27						
19	7	3	0	24	5	5	0	4	13	16	27						
19	6	4	0	17	8	3	4	2	14	12	26						
19	8	2	0	26	8	1	5	3	13	16	25						
19	7	2	1	22	13	4	0	5	15	14	24						
19	7	1	2	20	14	3	3	3	10	9	24						
18	5	3	1	17	5	3	2	4	10	13	21						
17	7	0	2	17	5	2	4	2	8	11	20						
19	6	0	3	17	11	3	2	5	6	11	20						
19	6	3	1	12	6	1	3	5	6	14	13	17					
19	3	2	4	14	13	2	5	3	14	13	17						
18	4	1	4	13	12	3	2	4	7	12	17						
18	6	1	2	18	12	1	1	7	8	15	16						
17	4	1	4	17	17	3	1	4	12	16	16						
19	5	2	2	11	6	1	2	7	8	19	16						
19	2	4	3	8	11	3	2	5	9	17	16						
19	4	2	3	15	14	2	1	7	17	29	15						
19	6	1	2	15	9	0	2	8	8	26	15						
19	4	5	1	16	10	0	1	8	7	25	14						
19	4	0	5	16	8	1	3	6	8	19	13						
19	3	5	2	18	13	1	0	8	6	26	13						
18	2	3	4	8	12	0	2	7	7	23	9						
19	3	1	5	11	15	0	1	9	3	26	8						

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Fourth Division Focus

by Chris Gill



NORTHAMPTON TOWN are the current headline makers, pulling in a massive £180,000 from Cambridge United for their leading scorer George Riley. The move, which went through at the back end of last week, constitutes a record fee for a Fourth Division player.

Hereford United finally appointed Frank Lord as their new manager this week to replace player-manager Mike Bailey who moved on recently. Prior to his appointment, two Hereford players, Chris Price and Andy Feeley were suspended for a breach of club discipline.

Stockport County's most recent signing, Tommy Sword, a £6,000 bargain from Bishop Auckland, got off to a sensational start with three goals in two games.

Still on the subject of goals, Ted McDougall didn't waste much time in clocking up his 250th league goal. He scored for A.F.C. Bournemouth in their recent 4 - 0 win over Rochdale and then added his 251st days later against Hereford.

Tranmere Rovers have snapped up Ken Beamish . . . one of their former players. They bought him back from Bury last week for £10,000 and Ken celebrated his return with a goal against Port Vale this week.

After making their best start to a season for years, Halifax have been pegged back by injuries to key players. Kevin Johnson was first to go down then Bob Mountford followed. Both are expected to be out until January. There are problems too for York City boss Charlie Wright. He has midfielder David Pugh and full back Jimmy Walsh sidelined for several weeks. However, Bradford City have welcomed Lammie Robertson back into the action. He returned recently having missed nine games through achilles tendon trouble.

Shrewsbury Town certainly got a bargain when they swooped for Aldershot's most dangerous striker, John Dungworth. The player cost just £75,000 and he began paying off that cash with a goal on his debut.

Torquay United's Les Lawrence has been catching the eye of Arsenal while Walsall have "borrowed" Birmingham City's midfield player Kevin Broadhurst for a trial period.

Ipswich Town have been checking on Peterborough United's South African born striker Andy Parkinson, and Halifax Town have made an offer for Ipswich's transfer-listed goalscorer Robin Turner.

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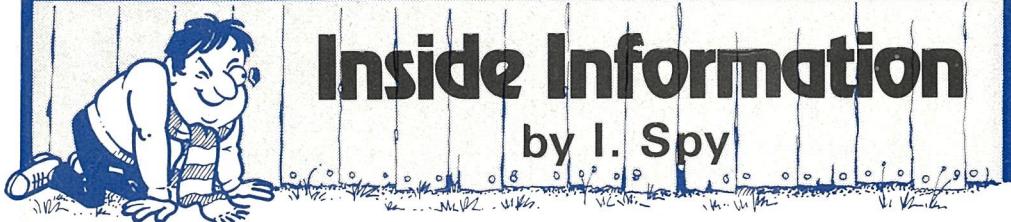
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Inside Information

by I. Spy



ONE OF the difficulties of passing on information is that one is not always sure of the background of those to whom one addresses one's remarks. For instance, this week we turn the spotlight on Wigan Athletic's answer to Dr. Seuss's "Cat with the Hat" or, if you prefer it, the technological revolution threatened by the micro-chip. While Jack Day, Tommy Hidden, Ronny Honor, Walter Kennedy, Dunc Colquhoun, not to mention "old Uncle Tom Cobley" have all been mentioned in this column, that unsung hero of the plunge baths, that duster of seats extraordinaire, that gifted handler of the big hose pipe, that skilled manipulator of the ball-cock, that forceful driver of the stiff brush, the one and only Bill Whalley, has been neglected. Sustained by Pagefield Hotel pies and ale, our willing man of

many parts continues to stagger us with his feats of strength and endurance. It is with great pleasure, therefore, that we accord him this acknowledgement of his valued contribution to everyday life at Springfield Park, and in the fullness of time we will present him with the added decoration of a bar (of soap) to complement the noble order of the W.C. already conferred upon him.

It is interesting to note that no fewer than five players' wives have taken matters into their own hands (well almost!) and are about to form their own Junior Blues' Organisation. The couples awaiting the happy events will be identified in later issues, but, one thing is for sure, not all the action takes place out on the park!!

GOOD AFTERNOON and once again a warm welcome to all supporters, and especially our friends from Scunthorpe who have made the journey to Springfield Park today.

Last Monday evening, the 12th November, the Radio Manchester quarter finals of the Sportsman's Quiz were recorded in the club, and, on behalf of the staff and committee, I wish to offer my sincere thanks to the four teams concerned and also the Radio Manchester technicians and personnel for providing us with a night of superb entertainment. For the record the games went as follows:-

Wigan Athletic	62	Rochdale Hornets	15
Bury A.F.C.	40	Salford R.L.F.C.	48

The semi-finals which are

Wigan Athletic v Salford

Leigh R.L.F.C. v Leigh C.C.

are to be played at Kearsley Cricket Club, on Monday evening, November 26th at 7.30 p.m. Transport is being arranged and anyone interested in coming along to give moral support to Messrs. Mick Moss, Tom Bracken and Colin Beavers, will be welcome.

Looking ahead to the forthcoming Federation of Supporters Clubs' Quiz Contest, I am confident that Mick Moss and his "memory men" will more than justify our debut in this competition.

We have a real star on stage tonight — Gerry Lee Shaw, and followed again tomorrow night by

Supporters Club News



another great character — Mike Hurst. Next weekend we have
Saturday, 24th Nov. — Johny Newton
Sunday, 25th Nov. — John Trevallyn

My thanks to Mr. Dalgleish and friend for collecting their membership cards, and on their next visit, I would be obliged if they would please contact me.

Once again, offering everyone the hospitality of the Supporters Club.

Sincerely,
Peter Woods.



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A last word from the chairman . . .

I AM pleased to welcome the Chairman, directors, management, players and supporters of the Scunthorpe United Football Club to Wigan. Although we completed the "double" in our first season in League Football, both games were fiercely contested and I have little doubt that this afternoon's fixture will be far from easy for either side. I trust, however, that the game will be played in a good spirit and that a good afternoon's entertainment will be witnessed by all present at Springfield Park.

With our games at Tranmere and Hartlepool having been postponed because of adverse weather conditions, today's game is our first team's last competitive fixture before next Saturday's visit to Bloomfield Road, Blackpool for the F.A. Cup tie. That game has already captured the interest of our supporters, and, with our great tradition as "giant-killers", we are far from despondent at the prospect of "stepping up a division" to tackle "the Seasiders". I hope that the Wigan fans making the short journey to Blackpool will be mindful of the good name which the club acquired in its non-league days, when journeying to townships not normally on our visiting list. By all means, wear your blue and white colours with pride and get right behind our boys, but, whatever the final result, let the residents of Blackpool remember Wigan's visit as a peaceful, sporting example of all that is best in a game of football between two proud Lancashire towns.

I know that Mr. McNeill will demand and get 100% from his players, so let us play our supporting role with equal commitment.

Off the field of play, progress is being made on a wide front and the directors, management and staff are slowly but surely, day by day, laying the foundations for the club's undoubtedly bright future. Now that we have started to move up the League Table again, the pre-season optimism is returning and we are but a few points adrift of the early contenders for the Fourth Division Championship. With your continued support through the testing winter months which lie ahead, I am sure we can go from strength to strength.

Enjoy today's game.

Sincerely,
A. O. Horrocks.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. O. Horrocks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'A' and 'O'.

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Teams

**Wigan
Athletic**
Royal Blue
& White Stripes

John Brown	1	Jim Gordon
Dave Fretwell	2	Steve Davy
Joe Hinnigan	3	John Peacock
Tommy Gore	4	Steve Deere
Colin Methven	5	David Hall
Neil Davids	6	Bob Oates
Frank Corrigan	7	Chris Cowling
Jeff Wright	8	Steve Cammack
Peter Houghton	9	Rick Green
Tony Quinn	10	Stuart Pilling
George Urquhart	11	Nolan Keeley
Micky Moore	12	Dave Gibson

**Scunthorpe
United**
Red Jerseys

Officials

Referee:
Mr. George Nolan
(Stockport)

Began refereeing in South Wales in 1959 and progressed through the Welsh League. Moved to Stockport in 1967 and continued via Cheshire League to the Football League's full list. Has officiated in several F.A. and European F.A. International fixtures.

Linesmen:
Red Flag
Mr. C.P. Hindle
(Blackburn)
Yellow Flag
Mr. G. Nolan
(Preston)

Here next...

Saturday, 1st December, 1979, Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
WIGAN ATHLETIC v NORTHAMPTON TOWN
Football League Division Four